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University of Washington Campus Sustainability Fund Invests in Green Stormwater Infrastructure

The 2010/2011 academic year marked the inaugural year of the University of Washington (UW) Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF). It grew out of the students' vision: "to have a more substantive engagement with the University of Washington's sustainability efforts." After an unprecedented student campaign involving over 5,500 signatures, the Student Activities Fee allocated \$339,805 to the CSF to fulfill their mission of funding student led sustainability projects that lower the University's environmental footprint.

The UW CSF is different than many other green funds at college campuses around the county, rather than use the funds to purchase carbon offsets, the UW CSF funds student led initiatives. For example the committee awarded \$86,800 – out of an expected cost of \$108,500 – to build a green wall on Gould Hall which houses the College of Built Environments and Green Futures Lab. The benefits of the green wall include: using native plants, reducing stormwater runoff, and increasing stormwater quality. There is also a proposal for \$69,220 to install a bioswale to clean up stormwater runoff from a nearby parking lot.



Green Wall conceptual image courtesy of the Green Futures Lab

The CSF allows students to develop leadership skills and provides them with great experience navigating the school's bureaucracy to make projects happen. The committee chair, Duncan Clauson states, "while students are learning and using skills in the classroom, the campus

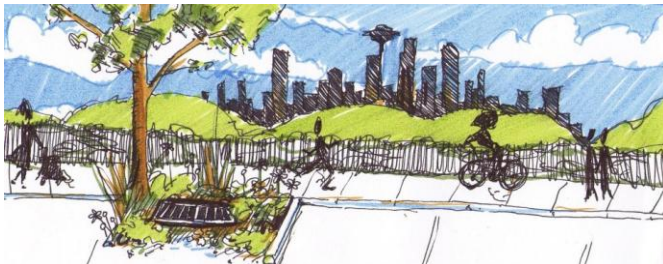


Image courtesy of Husky Sustainable Storms

sustainability fund provides them the opportunity to take that passion and create a legacy on campus."

To learn more about the CSF or Green Futures Lab visit: [UW Campus Sustainability Fund](#) or [UW Green Futures Lab](#)